

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CRUCIBLE FORMING**ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a method of forming a crucible. The method includes the steps of (a) bottoming one end of a tube thereby forming a substantially closed end; (b) heating the closed end to a forming temperature; (c) contacting an interior surface of the closed end with a forming tool, thereby altering the interior surface of the closed end to form at least one section with a predetermined wall thickness; and (d) manipulating the at least one section of the closed end to form an orifice.